

We claim:

1. A process for eliminating defects (3) in a grain layer (2) of a full-grain leather (1), a plastics compound being applied to the defects (3), wherein an aqueous, if appropriate lightly foamed, plastics dispersion which comprises very small compact particles is pressed into the defects (3) and the leather (1) is then dried, whereupon the grain layer (2) is subjected to a pressure and heat treatment, with the result that hollow microspheres (5) are at least partly formed from the compact particles in the solidified plastics dispersion.
2. The process according to claim 1, wherein the leather is cattle leather.
3. The process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the plastics dispersion is pressed into the defects (3) by means of a preferably counterrotating application roll having, if appropriate, a finely structured surface.
4. The process according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the pressure and temperature treatment is effected using a pressure roll which is heated to a temperature of at least 100°C, preferably from 120°C to 180°C, and makes contact with the grain layer (2).
5. The process according to claim 1, 2, 3 or 4, wherein the pressure roll has a finely structured surface.
6. The process according to any of claims 1 to 5, wherein compact particles having a size of less than 10 µm, preferably of less than 7 µm, are used in an amount of from 15 g to 60 g, based on 1 kg of a 40% strength plastics dispersion.
7. The process according to any of claims 1 to 6, wherein compact particles comprising a thermoplastic, which comprise a liquid blowing agent, are used.
8. The process according to any of claims 1 to 7, wherein compact particles which expand at a temperature below 120°C, preferably below 80°C, are used.
9. The process according to any of claims 1 to 8, wherein a mixture of water and a solvent, for example of 90 parts of water and of 10 parts of solvent, for example ethyl acetate, is applied to, preferably sprayed onto, the solidified plastics dispersion and a pressure and heat treatment is then effected.

10. The process according to any of claims 1 to 9, wherein pigmented compact particles whose color corresponds to that of the grain layer and/or of the plastics dispersion are used.

11. A full-grain leather, which has on parts of its grain layer, defects which are corrected by means of a plastics filling compound, wherein the plastics filling compound consists of a solidified, aqueous plastics dispersion which comprises hollow microspheres (5) formed from compact particles by supplying heat and is pressed into the defects on application.

12. The full-grain leather according to claim 11, which is cattle leather.

13. The full-grain leather according to claim 11 or 12, wherein the formation of the hollow microspheres (5) in the region adjacent to the surface (4) of the grain layer is greater than in the region further away from this surface (4).